

Atkins is back in business!

WYCOMBE'S star striker Stewart Atkins ended five weeks of frustration in the best possible style with two goals in the first 19 minutes of their Bergey Isthmian League visit to wind-swept Barking on Saturday.

Atkins' two goals, which amazingly make him Blues leading scorer again, put the side ahead after they had conceded an early goal. But Barking, piling on the pressure in the second half clinched an equaliser and could have well have snatched a winner.

So Wycombe were relieved

By MICHAEL KNOX

ed at the end of the match, none more so than manager Andy Williams who not only saw his side fight a stern rearguard action but watched his main strike force come through unscathed after being out of the team since August 26 with a hamstring injury.

Atkins came to the fore after Wycombe had conceded a soft goal in the fifth minute, to the free-scoring Barking forward line. Noel Ashford beat Paul Birdseye on the left and put up a delicate chip into the wind.

It fell into the path of Micky Dingwall, who reached

ed the bye-line before sending the ball across the face of goal. Anyone of three players could have scored but it was Gary Anderson who applied the finishing touch.

Composure

This goal rocked Wycombe who took time to regain their composure. But thanks to Atkins they were ahead 14 minutes later. The first goal came in the 15th minute.

Dave Allanson sent a good pass down the middle, and when Steve Long miskicked

his goal attempt there were groans from the Wycombe faithful. But these turned to cheers as Atkins pounced on the loose ball and slid it under Nicky Markwick's body.

Four minutes later Atkins was at it again, finishing off a move, in which the new improved Dylan Evans played an important part. Again Atkins slid the ball home from close range.

Another goal then and Wycombe would have created a big enough insurance policy to survive the second half gale. Mick Holifield had a great chance to make it 3-1 after brilliant

interpassing with Evans. But the ball bobbed on the atrocious surface and he hit the cross bar from eight yards.

With the ever stiffening wind at their backs Barking attacked ferociously after the break with Christ Ballard turning in a brilliant performance in mid-field.

It was he who made the equaliser for Peter Burton with a fine cross which eluded the outstretched leg of Alan Phillips. Burton had the simple task of slotting the ball home.

With Wycombe coming under increased pressure, tempers became a little frayed and Allanson was booked in the 53rd minute for dissent after the referee had failed to blow up for a foul.

BARKING: N. Markwick, G. Anderson, R. Main, R. Arber, D. White, N. Irons, C. Ballard, G. Twidwell, P. Burton, M. Dingwall, N. Ashford. Sub: J. Ford (not used).

WYCOMBE: J. Maskell, P. Birdseye, R. Davies, S. Hardwick, A. Phillips, D. Allanson, S. Atkins (sub: L. Reed 79 mins), M. Holifield, D. Evans, S. Long, J. Priestley.

Referee: G. Gordon (Haynes Park). **Half-time 1-2. Score:** Barking — Anderson (6 mins), Burton (50); Wycombe — Atkins (15, 19).



Kennedy back?

HOWARD Kennedy, out of the game for a month with a nighting groin injury, could return to the Wycombe side when they entertain Hayes tonight (Tuesday) at Loakes Park.

Kennedy is now fit again and may wear the number 12 shirt. Stewart Atkins, who felt a slight twinge of his hamstring injury when he played against Barking on Saturday, will play unless he suffers a reaction to that exercise.

Blues, who won at Hayes three weeks ago, must complete the double to get in among the leaders in one of the closest Isthmian championship races for years. They are placed handily, although having played more games than most of their close rivals.

Wycombe Youth will be away to Ruislip Manor in the FA Youth Cup second qualifying round on Sunday (kick off 3 pm).